

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 635

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BANGUI 1983

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, CT
SUBJ: 1978 HUMAN RIGHTS COUNTRY REPORT: CAE

REF: STATE 212861, 024419

BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

1. FIRST DRAFT FOR 1978 REPORT CONTAINED IN THIS TELEGRAM IS ESSENTIALLY AN UPDATED REVISION OF PREVIOUS HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON CAE, TEXT OF WHICH CONTAINED STATE 24419. CHANGES IN TEXT BY PARAGRAPH/TOPIC THUS ARE IN REFERENCE TO TEXT OF THAT TELEGRAM. POST HAS CAREFULLY EVALUATED ITS REVISION IN TERMS OF SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS CITED PARA 1 OF STATE 212861, GOCAE'S RECORD THROUGHOUT THIS YEAR, AND THE COMPELLING REALISM OF R. GRANT SMITH'S ARTICLE ON THIS GENERAL SUBJECT IN SEPTEMBER EDITION (VOL. 17) OF OPEN FORUM.

2. SETTING: PARA 1 (IN 3 SECTIONS) CHANGED ONLY AS FOLLOWS:

A) AT END OF FIRST SECTION FINAL SENTENCE SHOULD READ "NATIONAL ELECTIONS SHOULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, AND THE COUNTRY'S SINGLE POLITICAL PARTY APPEARS TO BE MAKING ACTIVE PREPARATIONS FOR THESE ELECTIONS."

B) SECOND SECTION: NO RPT NO CHANGE.

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C) THIRD SECTION: FIRST SENTENCE SHOULD SUBSTITUTE "YEAR" FOR "FOUR MONTHS." ADDED TO END OF THIS SECTION SHOULD BE FOLLOWING SENTENCE: "THE GOVERNMENT ALSO APPROVED ATTENDANCE AT THE BUTARE COLLOQUIUM ON HUMAN RIGHTS (JULY 1978) BY A LEADING CAE LAWYER AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ITS JUSTICE MINISTRY."

3. RESPECT FOR INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON, INCLUDING FREEDOM FROM:

- A) TORTURE: NO CHANGE
- B) CRUEL, INHUMAN OR DEGRADING TREATMENT OR PUNISHMENT: ADD FOLLOWING SENTENCE TO LAST SECTION: "NO RPT NO SIMILAR INCIDENTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED SINCE THEN."
- C) ARBITRARY ARREST OR IMPRISONMENT: IN FIRST SENTENCE OF FIRST SECTION "THREE DAYS" SHOULD BE REPLACED BY "48 HOURS."
- D) DENIAL OF FAIR PUBLIC TRIAL: NO CHANGE
- E) INVASION OF THE HOME: NO CHANGE.

4. GOVERNMENTAL POLICIES RELATING TO THE FULFILLMENT OF SUCH VITAL NEEDS AS FOOD, SHELTER, HEALTH CARE AND EDUCATION: ADD FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH AS LAST SECTION (NO RPT NO CHANGE IN EXISTING THREE SECTIONS): "IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, THE GOCAE APPEARS TO PRACTICE NO RPT NO DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEX, ETHNIC, RACIAL, RELIGIOUS OR CASTE CONSIDERATIONS. THE LOW LEVEL AND QUALITY OF THE COUNTRY'S EXISTING INFRASTRUCTURE DOES, HOWEVER, LIMIT ITS ABILITY TO DELIVER SERVICES AND COMMODITIES EFFECTIVELY TO MANY PARTS OF THE COUNTRY."

5. RESPECT FOR CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES, INCLUDING:
- A) FREEDOM OF THOUGHT, SPEECH, RELIGION, PRESS AND ASSEMBLY: NO CHANGE.
 - B) FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT WITHIN THE COUNTRY, FOREIGN TRAVEL AND EMIGRATION: NO CHANGE.
 - C) FREEDOM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE POLITICAL PROCESS: PENULTIMATE CONFIDENTIAL

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SENTENCE: "IN 1978" SHOULD BE REPLACED BY "IN LATE 1978."

6. GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE AND RECORD REGARDING INTERNATIONAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS: NO CHANGE.

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7. ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS (AF USE)

A) OBJECTIONS: US CAPABILITIES TO EFFECT BASIC CHANGES ARE LIMITED BY THE VERY NATURE OF THIS REGIME, WHICH IS WELL KNOWN TO THE DEPARTMENT. WHERE WE CAN HELP EFFECT IMPROVEMENTS APPEARS LIMITED TO ASSISTING BASIC HUMAN NEEDS AND INFLUENCING THE POTENTIAL, POST IMPERIAL LEADERSHIP. ALL RECOMMENDED, SPECIFIC ACTIONS ARE MEANT TO FURTHER THESE TWO PRIMARY OBJECTIVES, ARE GIVEN IN PRIORITY ORDER, ARE FEASIBLE IN TERMS OF CONTINUING BUT MINIMAL U.S. LEVERAGE, AND APPEAR TO BE SUSCEPTIBLE TO ATTRACTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WHERE APPROPRIATE. THESE OBJECTIVES ARE SO BASIC AS TO BE UNLIMITED IN TIME ALTHOUGH IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS ARE INHERENTLY SENSITIVE TO TIMING.

1) RESUME AID ACTIVITIES IN FY 1980 AND ESTABLISH RESIDENT AID OFFICER POSITION TO OVERSEE THESE ACTIVITIES; BASIC HUMAN NEEDS PROGRAMS SHOULD THEN BE EXPANDED IN FY 1981.

2) CREATE A PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER POSITION IN BANGUI TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND U.S. ACCESS TO ACTUAL AND FUTURE LEADERSHIP.

3) USE APPROPRIATE EVEYTS TO COMMUNICATE OUR PLEASURE WITH OR CONGRATULATIONS UPON SIGNIFICANT CAQ ACHIEVEMENTS IN HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS (E.G. UPCOMING ELECTIONS), AND OUR DISPLEASURE WITH EXAMPLES OF THE REVERSE.

BECAE REACTIONS TO U.S. POLICIES AND ACTIONS IN THE PAST HAVE BEEN UNEVEN ALTHOUGH THE ESSENTIAL MESSAGE HAS BEEN DELIVERED
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AND RECEIVED LOUD AND CLEAR. SOME ELEMENTS OF THE HIGHEST LADERSHIP HERE MAY REGARD OUR POLICIES AND ACTIONS AS FUNDAMEN- TALLY A QUESTION OF GOOD VERSUS BAD PUBLICITY. THE BROADER BASE OF POTENTIAL LEADERSHIP AND IMPORTANT INTEREST GROUPS IN CAE SOCIETY, WHILE AWARE OF BOTH, REQUIRE GREATER REINFORCEMENT EFFORTS ON OUR PART. THE PRIMARY OBJECTIVES AND IMPLEMENTING ACTIONS

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BANGUI 1983

PROPOSED ABOVE ARE INTIMATELY TIED TO A LONG TERM CARROT AND STICK (OR RATHER NO CARROT) APPROACH WHICH SHOULD ENCOURAGE POSITIVE ALBEIT SLOW PROGRESS IN HUMAN RIGHTS.

C) IMPACT OF PAST U.S. ACTIONS ON OTHER U.S. INTERESTS APPEARS ON BALANCE EITHER SLIGHTLY POSITIVE OR NEUTRAL. GIVEN OUR LIMITED INTERESTS IN CAE, NONE HAVE SUFFERED. A RECENT, ADMITTEDLY MINOR INCIDENT INVOLVING THE DETENTION OF U.S. CITIZEN ENDED IN A RELATIVELY SMOOTH AND CORRECT RESOLUTION, IN WHICH IT WAS APPARENT THAT HIGHER CAE OFFICIALS WERE ANXIOUS TO ACT IN A RESPONSIBLE AND RESPONSIVE MANNER. GOVERNMENT APPROVAL OF TWO DISTINGUISHED CAE CITIZENS' ATTENDANCE AT THE BUTARE COLLOQUIUM, WHILE HARDLY A BENCHMARK, WAS ALSO AN ENCOURAGING DEVELOPMENT.

8. COMMENT: AS GOCAE LIKE MANY OTHER DEVELOPING NATIONS' GOVERNMENTS PLACES HIGHER PUBLIC EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS, OUR OVERALL OBJECTIVES ARE WELL DESIGNED TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE STEPS AT BASIC YET HIGHLY VISIBLE LEVELS. FOR NEGATIVE DEVELOPMENTS, SAME IS ALSO TRUE. THE MAJOR CAVEATS IN PURSUING OUR OBJECTIVES HERE ARE THOSE OF A) MINIMAL U.S. LEVERAGE AND INFLUENCE, B) MINIMAL GENUINE INTERESTS IN THE CAE ON THE PART OF THE U.S. AND OTHERS, C) A DEFINITELY LOWER LEVEL OF CONCERN OVER HUMAN RIGHTS PROGRESS HERE ON THE PART OF OTHER NATIONS HAVING SIMILAR OR EVEN GREATER INTERESTS IN THE CAE.

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